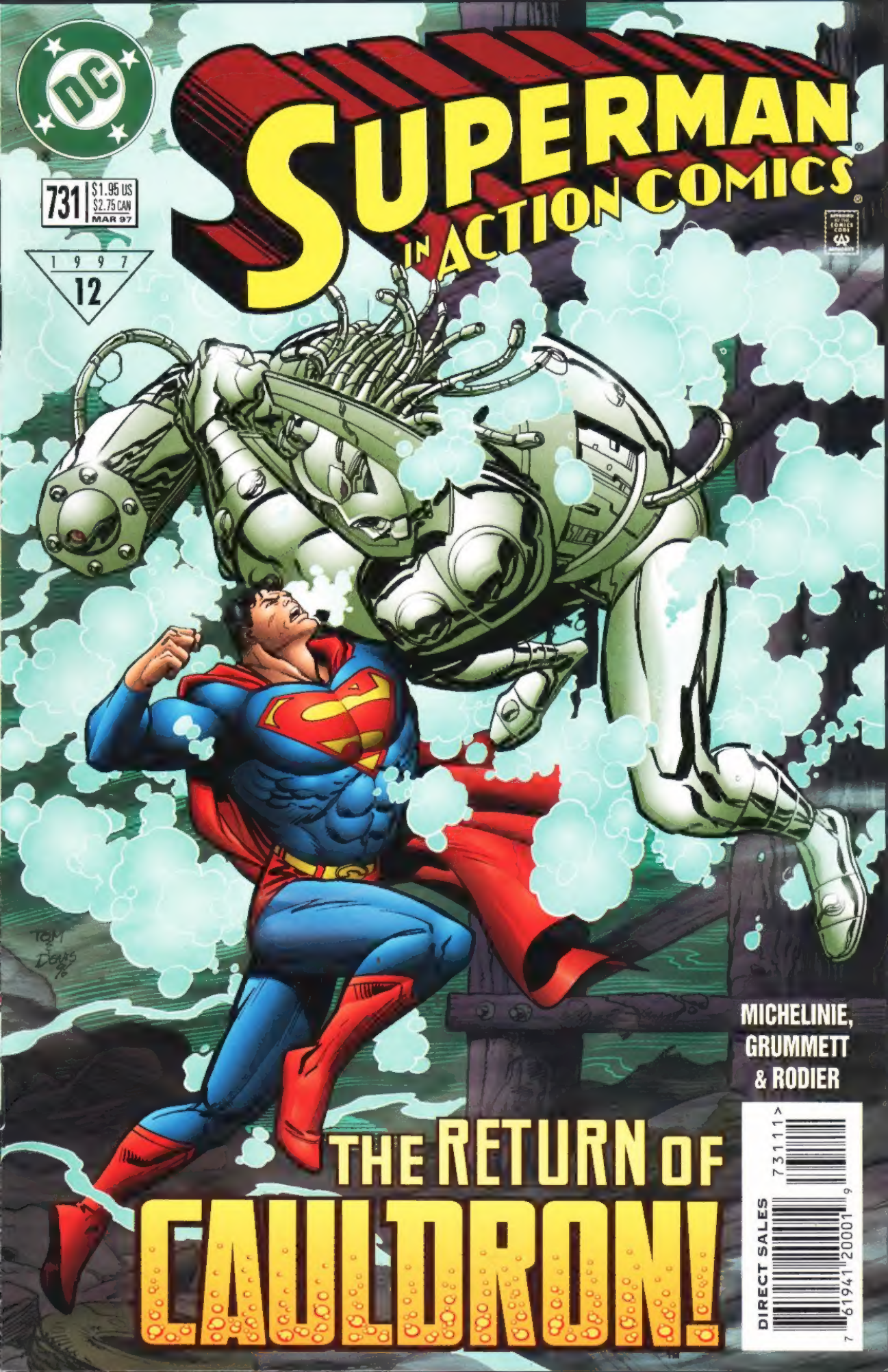
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METROPOLIS: A DOCK ON THE WEST RIVER.
EASY, BOYS!
THIS IS THE LAST ONE.
JUST SET 'ER DOWN GENTLY, AN' WE CAN ALL GO--
SNAPT!
KAGHASH!
WHAT--?! TH-THAT AIN'T NO TRACTOR!
SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE!
I'M SORRY, COMRADE--

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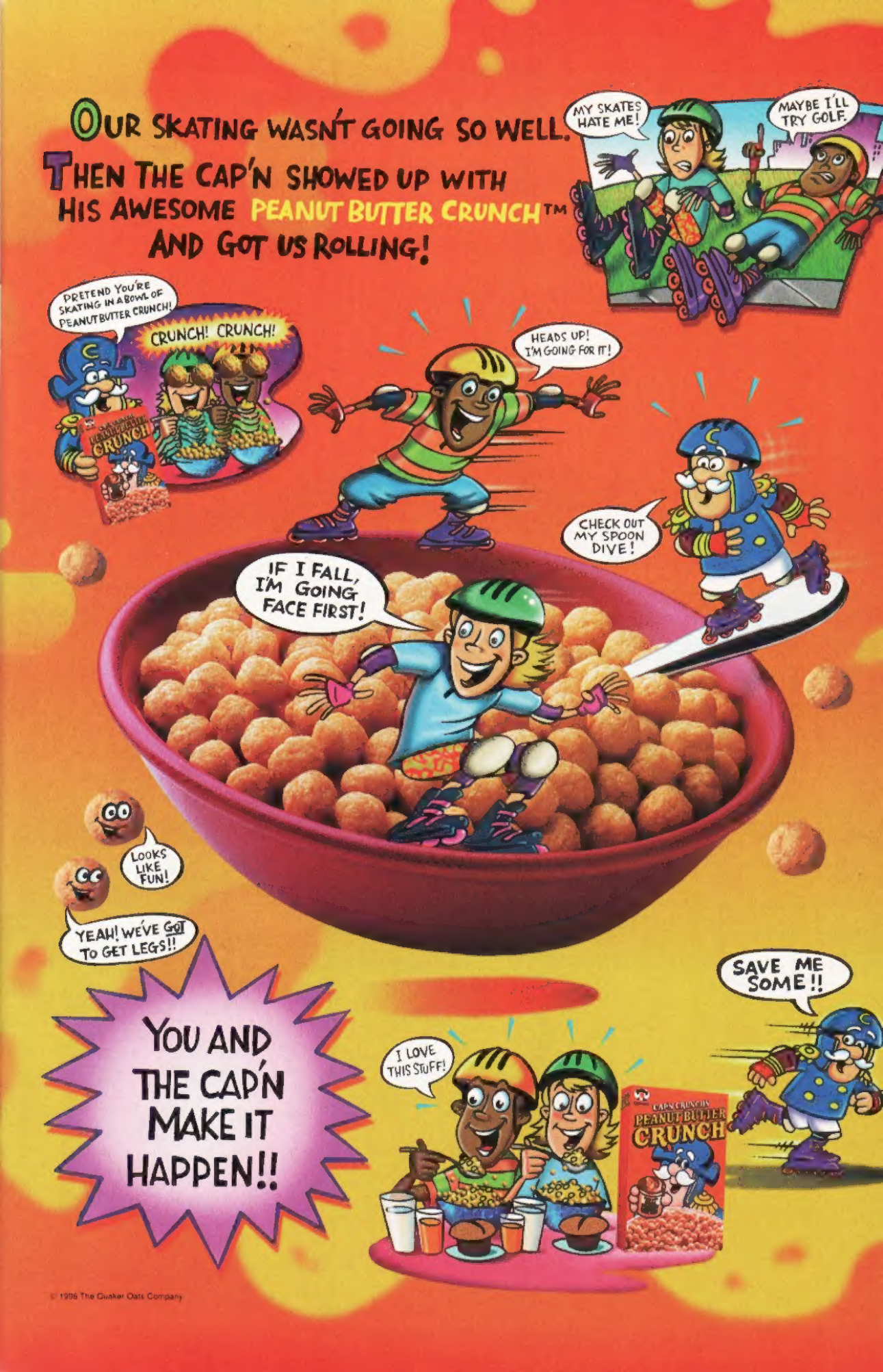
--BUT I CANNOT ALLOW THAT!
FUHWOOOOSH!
"...FIRE BURN AND CAULDRON BUBBLE!"
VLADIVOSTOK
DAVID MICHELINIE - writer
TOM GRUMMETT & DENIS RODIER
artists
BILL OAKLEY - letterer
GLENN WHITMORE - colorist
DIGITAL CHAMELEON
color separations
MIKE McAVENNIE
associate editor
JOEY CAVALIERI - editor
SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

FLAMES ARE PRETTY.
SOOTHING AND EXCITING.
uh-huh.
BUT I'VE SEEN THE FIRE OF ALIEN SUNS--
--AND NONE EVER SPARKED AS BRIGHT AS THE LIGHT IN YOUR EYES.
AWWW...
GUESS THAT'S ONE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A WIFE--
--SEEING THE HIDDEN SIDE OF HER HUSBAND. THE ROMANTIC, THE POET...
...THE MAN.
I'M GLAD WE FOUND THIS TIME TOGETHER. IT'S SO RARE THAT WE BOTH HAVE A DAY OFF.
AND EVEN MORE RARE FOR--
--SUPERMAN?
CLARK?
TROUBLE. DOWN AT THE DOCKS.


OUR SKATING WASN'T GOING SO WELL.
THEN THE CAP'N SHOWED UP WITH HIS AWESOME PEANUT BUTTER CRUNCH™ AND GOT US ROLLING!
MY SKATES HATE ME!
MAYBE I'LL TRY GOLF.
PRETEND YOU'RE SKATING IN A BOWL OF PEANUT BUTTER CRUNCH!
CRUNCH! CRUNCH!
HEADS UP! I'M GOING FOR IT!
CHECK OUT MY SPOON DIVE!
IF I FALL, I'M GOING FACE FIRST!
LOOKS LIKE FUN!
YEAH! WE'VE GOT TO GET LEGS!!
YOU AND THE CAP'N MAKE IT HAPPEN!!
I LOVE THIS STUFF!
SAVE ME SOME!!
CAP'N CRUNCH'S PEANUT BUTTER CRUNCH

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Written by JAMES ROBINSON. Illustrated by TONY HARRIS and WADE VON GRAWBADGER.

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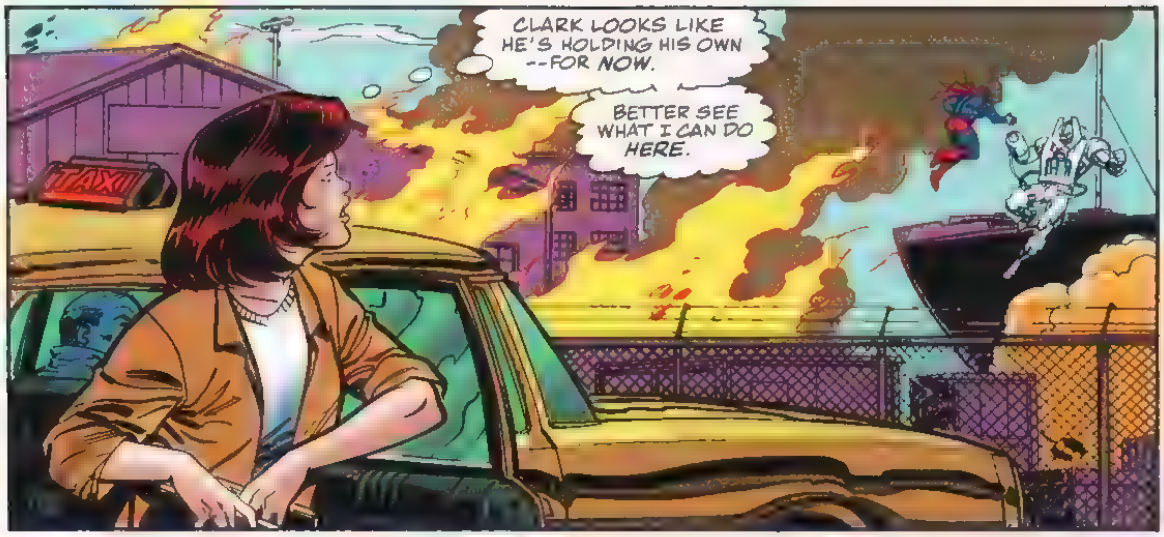
FIRE BLAZING OUT OF CONTROL!
I DON'T THINK THE METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT!
SORRY, LOIS. I KNOW THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR TIME.
I JUST HOPE YOU--
--"UNDERSTAND"?
I THOUGHT WE SETTLED THAT LONG AGO.
THANKS, SWEETHEART.
YOU'RE AN ANGEL.
I'M ALSO A REPORTER.
WHICH MEANS WE'D BOTH BETTER GET TO--
--WORK...?
WHHSSH!

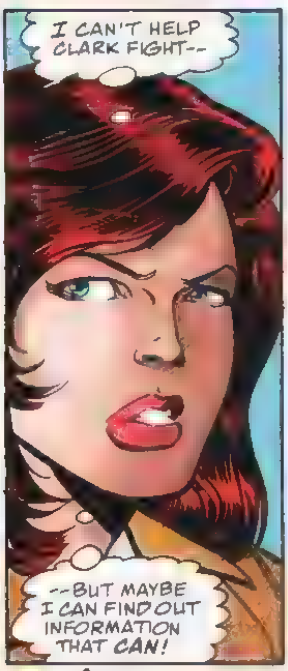
WORKIN' IN METROPOLIS, I GUESS THIS WAS BOUND TA HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER!
I HEAR YA, ALF!
BUT WHY'D THIS HARDCASE HAFTA PICK OUR SHIFT TA SHOW UP?
POOM!
P-POOM!
BAD KARMA, BUDDY! AN' IT GETS WORSE!
THESE MAGNUMS COULD DROP A GRIZZLY IN ITS TRACKS--
--BUT HOW CAN WE STOP THAT THING WHEN BULLETS MELT BEFORE THEY EVEN REACH IT?
HOW??
I'M HOW.
THOUGHT I'D SEEN THE LAST OF YOU, CAULDRON.
Ah, SUPERMAN. THIS MAGNIFICENT CITY'S GUARDIAN.
IT IS AN HONOR.

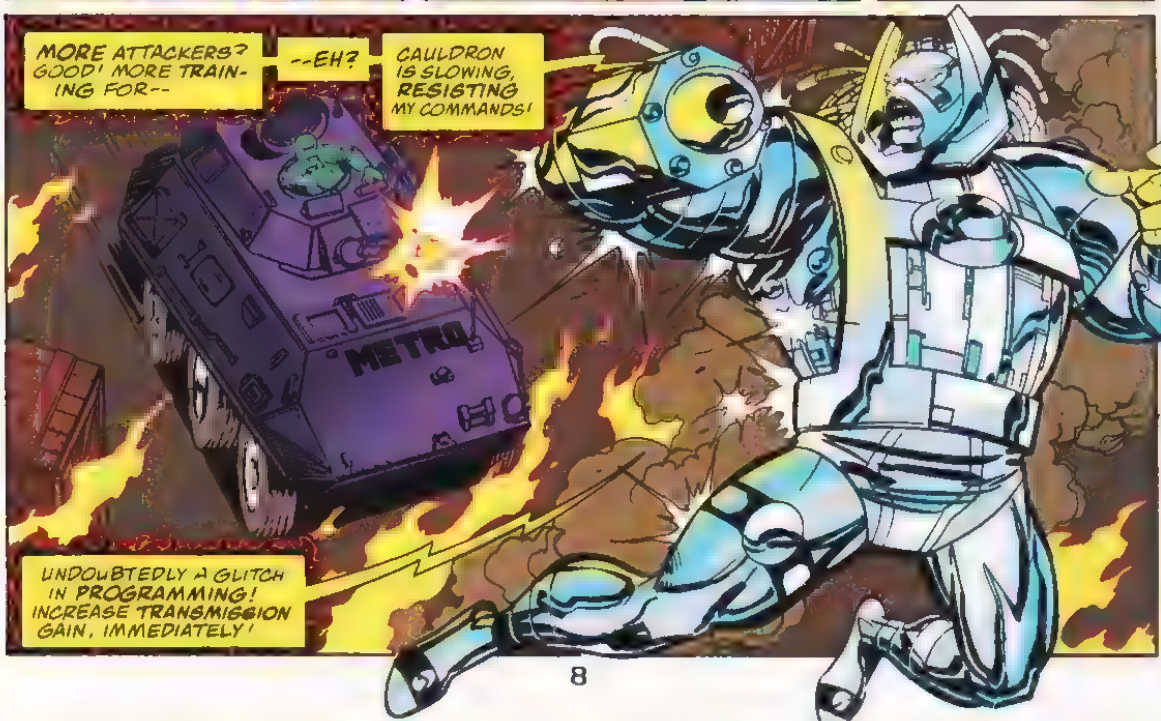
AND A CONVENIENCE. THIS MACHINE WAS BEING SHIPPED HOME FOR TESTING--
--BUT THAT PURPOSE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED EQUALLY BY MELTING THE FAMOUS MAN OF STEEL!
YOU'RE TALKING NOW?
HOW ABOUT, "I SURRENDER"?
BECAUSE HEAT VISION CLIPPED YOUR GUN ARM BEFORE, AND--
BAH! THIS CAULDRON HAS ADVANCED ABSORPTION CIRCUITRY!
ENERGY USED AGAINST IT IS INSTANTLY FED INTO ITS OWN POWER SYSTEM--
--MAKING IT EVEN STRONGER!
F-FAASSH!
NAPALM HIT ME LIKE A CANNON SHOT!
BUT A SUPER-SPEED SPIN SHOULD TAKE THE HEAT OFF!
CAULDRON HAS A RUSSIAN ACCENT. BUT LAST TIME HE WAS OPERATED BY AN AMERICAN.*
NEW POWERS, GUIDED BY AN UNKNOWN INTELLIGENCE?
THIS COULD BE TRICKIER THAN I THOUGHT...!
* ACTION #695


CLARK LOOKS LIKE HE'S HOLDING HIS OWN --FOR NOW.
BETTER SEE WHAT I CAN DO HERE.
TAXI

Y-YEAH, I SAW IT ALL! THAT THING COME RIGHT OUTTA THE VLADIVOSTOK!
CARGO MANIFEST SAID SHE WAS CARRYIN' AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES--

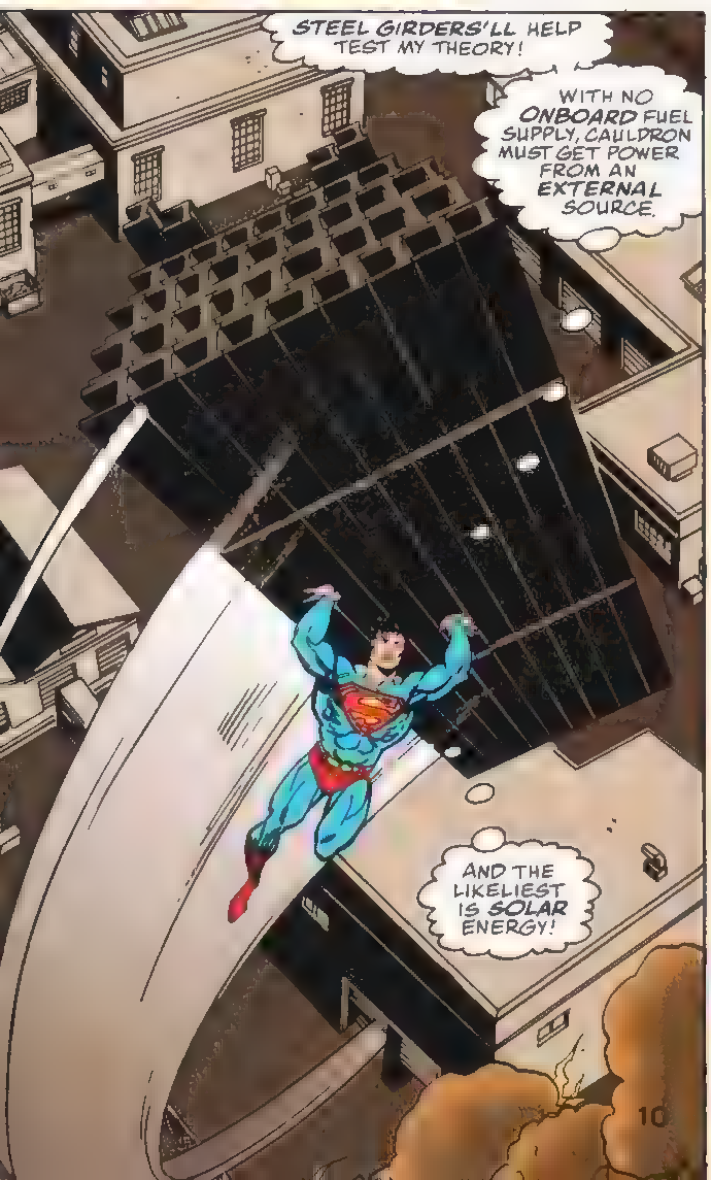
--BUT THAT MONSTER WEREN'T MADE TA PLOW NO BACK FORTY!


I CAN'T HELP CLARK FIGHT--
--BUT MAYBE I CAN FIND OUT INFORMATION THAT CAN!


MORE ATTACKERS? GOOD! MORE TRAINING FOR--
--EH?
CAULDRON IS SLOWING, RESISTING MY COMMANDS!
METRO
UNDOUBTEDLY A GLITCH IN PROGRAMMING! INCREASE TRANSMIGGION GAIN, IMMEDIATELY!

DA! MUCH BETTER!
ARMORED CAR'S MELTING LIKE BUTTER IN A MICRO-WAVE!
MUST USE SUPER-BREATH TO COOL THINGS DOWN!
THEN, WHEN THE OPERATORS ARE OUT OF DANGER, I'LL CHECK THIS "NEW" CAULDRON OUT!
X-RAY VISION SHOWS CLONED HUMAN TISSUE INSIDE THAT'S WHAT ALLOWS IT TO BE CONTROLLED CYBERNETICALLY FROM AFAR. BUT...
...NO FUEL SUPPLY?
IF THAT MEANS WHAT I THINK IT DOES, I SHOULD HAVE THIS WRAPPED UP IN NO TIME!
FIRE
FIRE
MAN, TALK ABOUT A FRONT-ROW SEAT! THE GUYS DOWN AT ERNESTO'S WON'T BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL 'EM--

GET OUT!
BUILDING NEXT DOOR'S STOCKED WITH BULK PROPANE!
GONNA BLOW ANY SECOND!
HOLY--!
WELL... THAT WAS EASY!
AND NOW, SINCE THIS IS THE WAREHOUSE THAT SUPPLIED THE VLADIVOSTOK--
--I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THE REAL STORY!


STEEL GIRDERS'LL HELP TEST MY THEORY!
WITH NO ONBOARD FUEL SUPPLY, CAULDRON MUST GET POWER FROM AN EXTERNAL SOURCE.
AND THE LIKELIEST IS SOLAR ENERGY!

GOOD! STEEL MELTING AS IT HITS THE ROBOT'S HEAT FIELD, COATING HIM!
LET'S SEE HOW LONG YOU LAST WHEN CUT OFF FROM THE SUN, CAULDRON!

IN STORES THIS FEBRUARY:
WONDER WOMAN #120
JOHN BYRNE, GEORGE PÉREZ, RUTH MORRISON, JILL THOMPSON, BRIAN BOLLAND, AND NICK CARDY CELEBRATE DIANA'S EPIC PAST AND STARTLING FUTURE.
WONDER WOMAN: SECOND GENESIS
A TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION OF THE AMAZON WARRIOR'S BATTLE AGAINST DARKSEID, BY JOHN BYRNE.
TEN YEARS IN THE MAKING!
WONDER WOMAN
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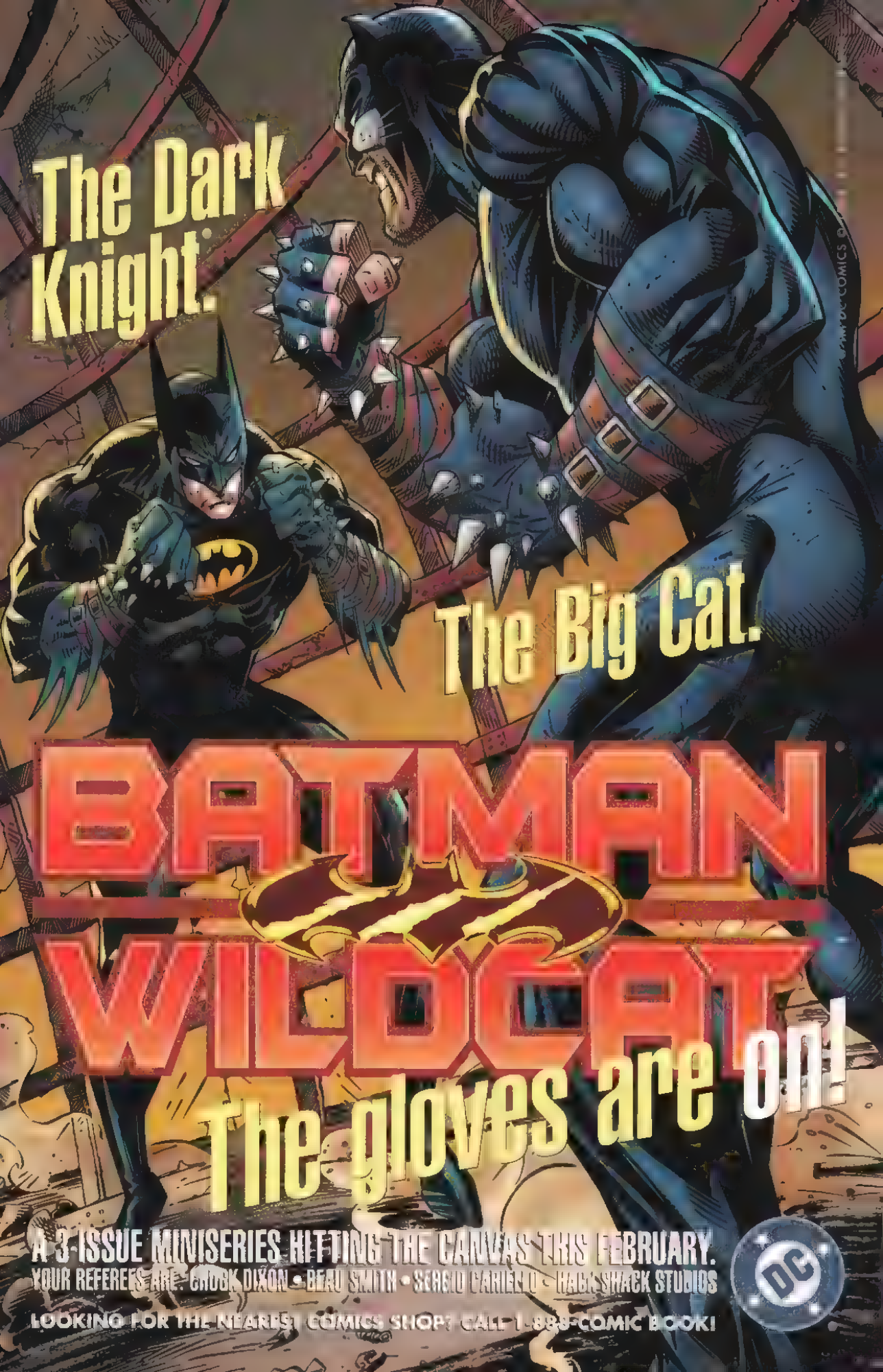
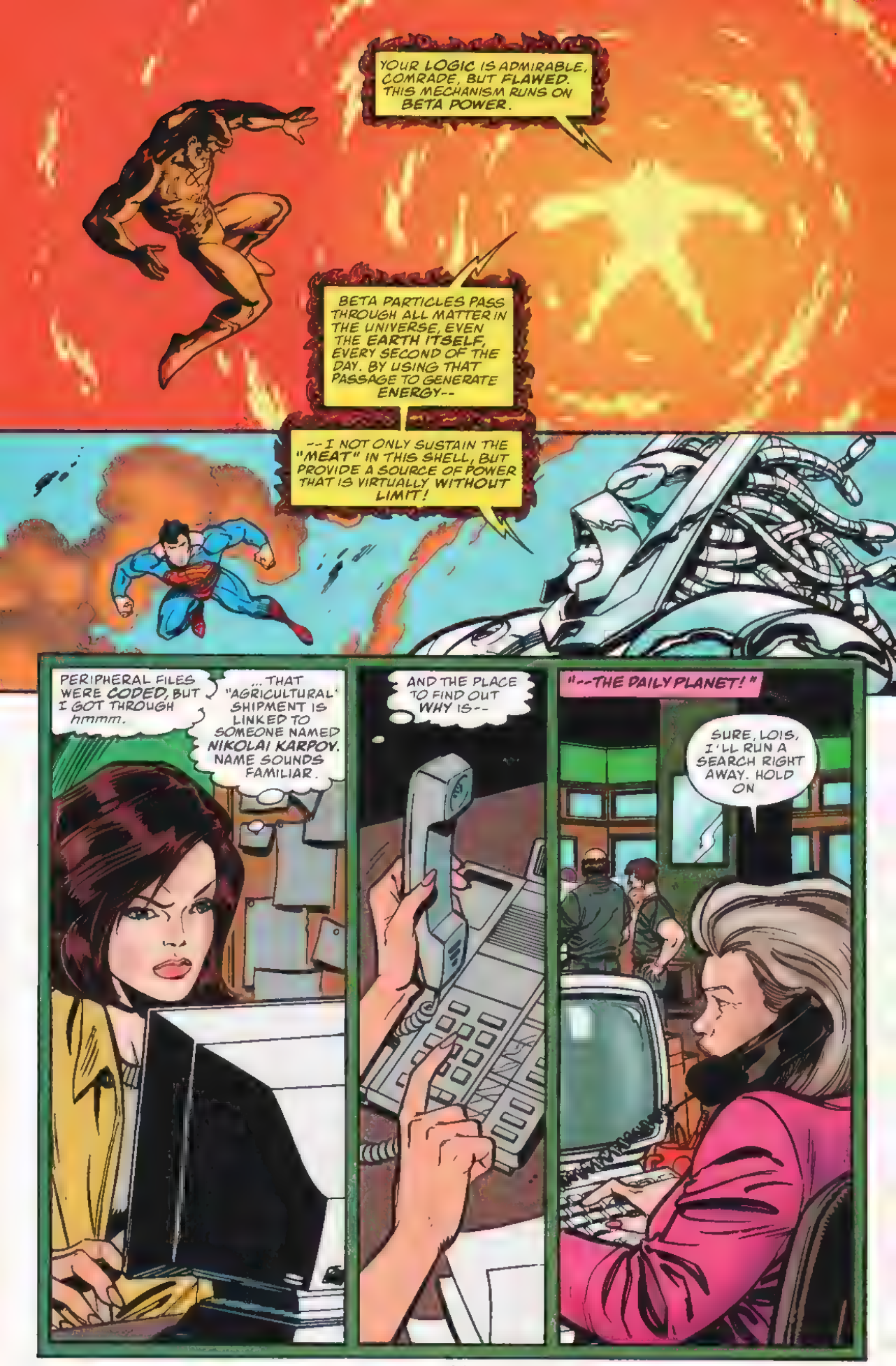
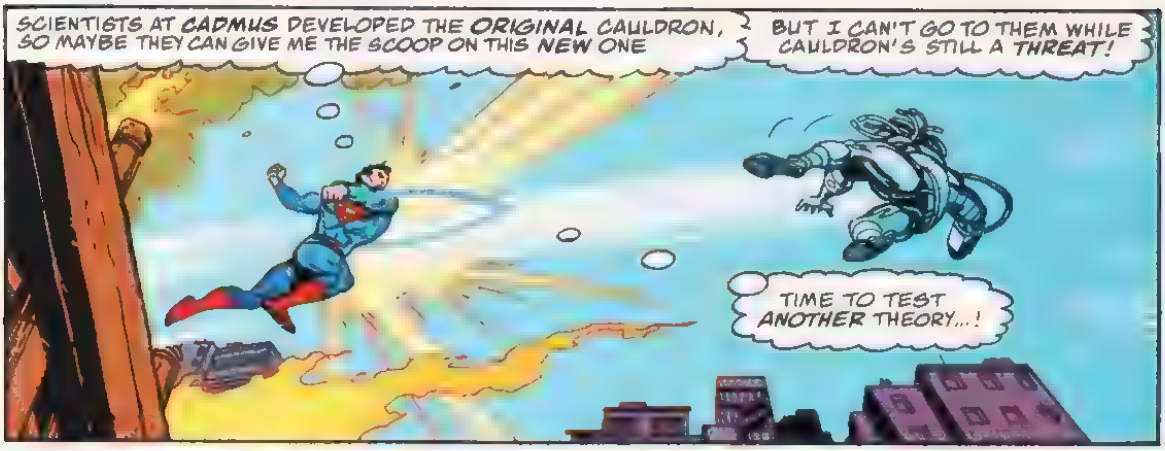
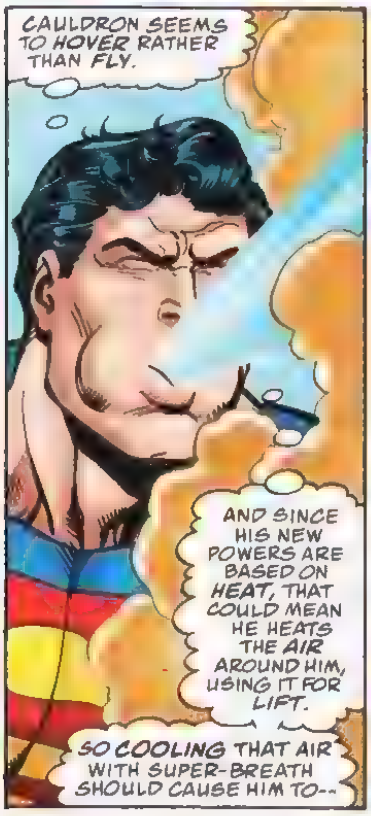
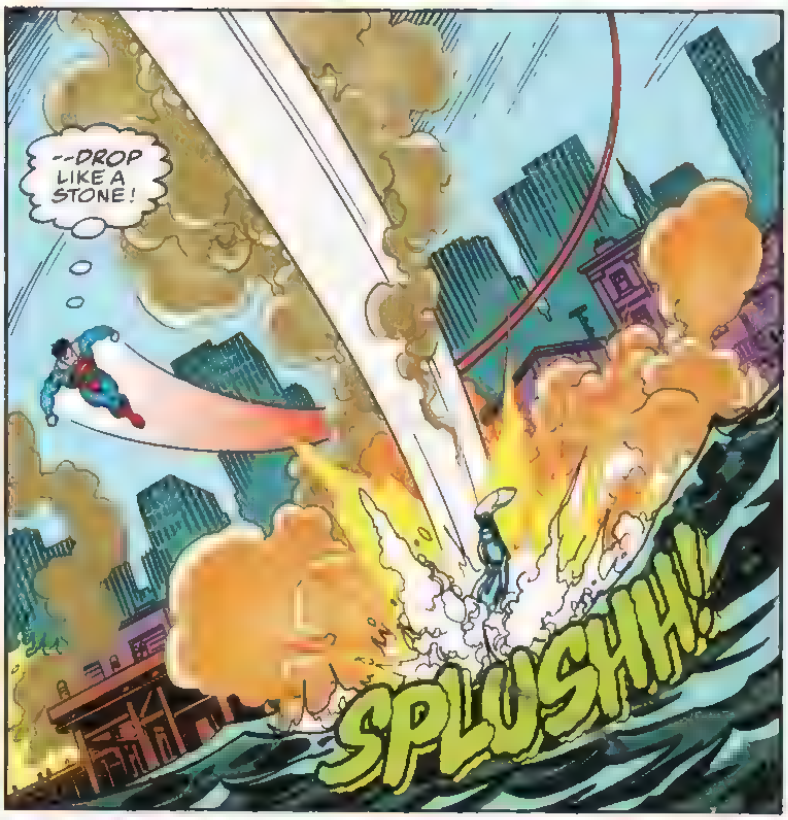
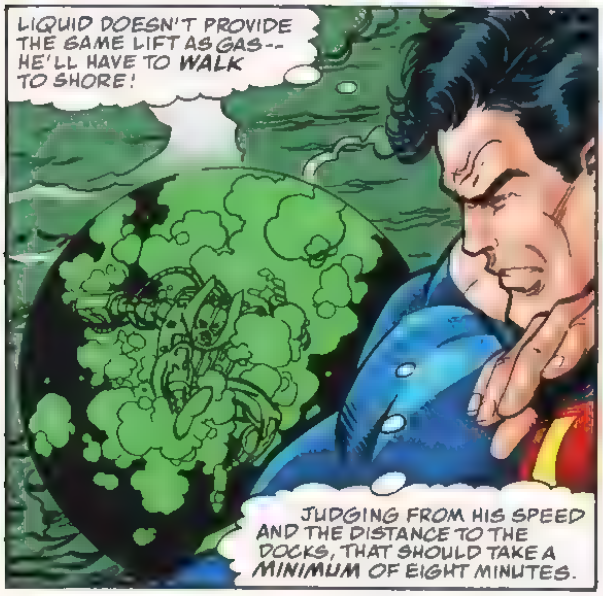

The Dark Knight.
The Big Cat.
BATMAN
WILDCAT
The gloves are on!
A 3-ISSUE MINISERIES HITTING THE CANVAS THIS FEBRUARY.
YOUR REFEREES ARE: CHUCK DIXON • BEAU SMITH • SERGIO CARIELLO • HACK/SLACK STUDIOS
LOOKING FOR THE NEAREST COMICS SHOP? CALL 1-888-COMIC BOOK!


YOUR LOGIC IS ADMIRABLE, COMRADE, BUT FLAWED. THIS MECHANISM RUNS ON BETA POWER.
BETA PARTICLES PASS THROUGH ALL MATTER IN THE UNIVERSE, EVEN THE EARTH ITSELF, EVERY SECOND OF THE DAY. BY USING THAT PASSAGE TO GENERATE ENERGY--
--I NOT ONLY SUSTAIN THE "MEAT" IN THIS SHELL, BUT PROVIDE A SOURCE OF POWER THAT IS VIRTUALLY WITHOUT LIMIT!
PERIPHERAL FILES WERE CODED, BUT I GOT THROUGH hmmm.
... THAT "AGRICULTURAL" SHIPMENT IS LINKED TO SOMEONE NAMED NIKOLAI KARPOV. NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
AND THE PLACE TO FIND OUT WHY IS--
"--THE DAILY PLANET!"
SURE, LOIS, I'LL RUN A SEARCH RIGHT AWAY. HOLD ON


SCIENTISTS AT CADMUS DEVELOPED THE ORIGINAL CAULDRON, SO MAYBE THEY CAN GIVE ME THE SCOOP ON THIS NEW ONE
BUT I CAN'T GO TO THEM WHILE CAULDRON'S STILL A THREAT!
TIME TO TEST ANOTHER THEORY...!


CAULDRON SEEMS TO HOVER RATHER THAN FLY.
AND SINCE HIS NEW POWERS ARE BASED ON HEAT, THAT COULD MEAN HE HEATS THE AIR AROUND HIM, USING IT FOR LIFT.
SO COOLING THAT AIR WITH SUPER-BREATH SHOULD CAUSE HIM TO--


--DROP LIKE A STONE!
SPLUSHH!

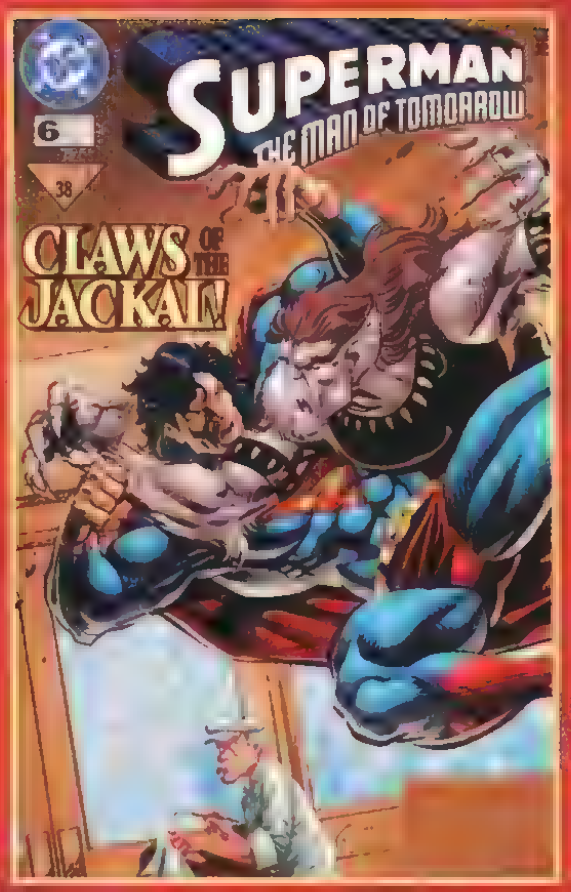

LIQUID DOESN'T PROVIDE THE SAME LIFT AS GAS-- HE'LL HAVE TO WALK TO SHORE!
JUDGING FROM HIS SPEED AND THE DISTANCE TO THE DOCKS, THAT SHOULD TAKE A MINIMUM OF EIGHT MINUTES.

WHICH MEANS I'D BETTER BE BACK IN SEVEN!

THAT'S CORRECT, SUPERMAN. WE PLACED THE CAULDRON PROJECT ON HOLD UNTIL CERTAIN, AH, MORAL AMBIGUITIES COULD BE CLARIFIED.
THAT MONSTER BURNING DOWN METROPOLIS IS FAR FROM "INACTIVE," DIRECTOR THOMPKINS!
INDEED. BUT PERHAPS KEVIN HERE, THE MAN WHO CREATED CAULDRON, CAN EXPLAIN WHAT MAY HAVE HAPPENED.
SOON AS I HEARD ABOUT THE BATTLE ON THE DOCKS, I CHECKED THE CAULDRON FILES--
--AND FOUND RECORDS OF UNAUTHORIZED DUPLICATION OF PROJECT DATA.
APPARENTLY, SOMEONE'S BEEN EARNING EXTRA CASH BY SELLING SECRETS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!
YOU HAVE MY WORD WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS
AND YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT I'LL SEE TO IT.
BUT RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO METROPOLIS.
13:27

SUPERMAN, WAIT!
THE ORGANIC MATTER INSIDE CAULDRON MAY BE CLONE TISSUE, BUT IT'S STILL A LIVING BEING! YOU CAN'T JUST KILL IT!
I UNDERSTAND, MR. CROW, BUT--
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
ACCORDING TO ONSITE REPORTS, CAULDRON HESITATED, AS IF RESISTING COMMANDS!
NATURALLY, WE SENT AN OVERRIDE SIGNAL, THE SAME WAY DABNEY DONOVAN TOOK OVER THE ORIGINAL CAULDRON--*
* IN ACTION #695.
--BUT IT DIDN'T GET THROUGH. IMPROVED SECURITY CIRCUITS ARE BLOCKING OUTSIDE TRANSMISSIONS.
WHICH MEANS THAT ANY RESISTANCE MUST BE COMING FROM WITHIN!
FROM THE "MINDLESS" CLONE!
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, MR CROW. BUT WHOEVER IS CONTROLLING CAULDRON HAS ALREADY TAKEN LIVES, AND IS OBVIOUSLY WILLING TO TAKE MORE. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN...
...BUT I'LL ALSO DO WHAT I HAVE TO.

BUY FOUR SUPERMAN TITLES AND GET ONE FREE!



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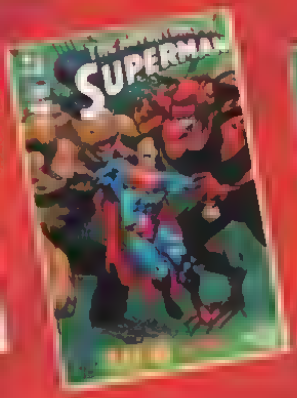

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SHORT SECONDS LATER
JUST IN TIME!
BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO--
SUPERMAN!
I'VE FOUND SOMETHING OUT, SOMETHING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE!
MAKE IT FAST, LOIS!
I TRACED THAT SHIPMENT TO A MAN NAMED NIKOLAI KARPOV.
TURNS OUT HE WAS A MAJOR PLAYER IN ORGANIZED CRIME IN WHAT USED TO BE THE U.S.S.R!
HE MUST BE THE ONE WHO BOUGHT THE CAULDRON FILES FROM THAT CADMUS TRAITOR, THEN FINANCED THE MODIFICATIONS THAT MAKE IT SO DANGEROUS!
THANKS, LOIS!
WILL IT HELP?
I HOPE SO!

"BUT IT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER KIND OF HELP HAS ALREADY ARRIVED
"THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT, SETTING UP SOME SORT OF WEAPON!
"CAULDRON'S SPOTTED THEM, TOO! THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
"UNLESS I USE LOIS'S INFORMATION TO DISTRACT HIM!"
BACK AWAY, KARPOV!
WHAT?! H-HOW DID YOU KNOW--?
NO MATTER! SOON, THE WORLD WILL KNOW OF ME!
THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SOVIET UNION HAS LEFT MY MOTHER COUNTRY IN GLORIOUS CHAOS!
OPPORTUNITIES ARE ENDLESS FOR SOMEONE STRONG ENOUGH TO SEIZE THEM!
HOW MUCH LONGER?
COUPLA MINUTES!
AND WITH THIS MACHINE, THIS CAULDRON, THAT STRENGTH WILL BE MINE!

STARTING WITH THE ABILITY TO TURN THOSE PUNY POLICE-MEN INTO ASHES!
WHA--THE WEAPON WON'T FIRE! ROBOT'S RESISTING AGAIN!
HE'S HESITATING! HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY, KEEP HIM FROM KILL-ING THOSE COPS!
RIP THE HEAD OFF BEFORE--
S...SUPER-MAN...!
A HUMAN VOICE?!
COMING FROM INSIDE?
PLEASE ...KILL ME!
CHANNELING MORE POWER TO THE COMMAND CIRCUITS!
DA! I'M IN CONTROL AGAIN!
THOK!
THE CLONE TISSUE IS AWARE! IT KNOWS WHAT KARPOV IS MAKING IT DO--
--AND IS WILLING TO SACRI-FICE ITS LIFE TO STOP HIM!
I CAN'T KILL A SENTIENT BEING! I WON'T! BUT HOW ELSE WILL I--
POWERED UP!
HIT IT!

VZZZZHHAAK!
NICE SHOOTIN', SANTIAGO!
THAT METAL MOOK'S AS GOOD AS--
--HUH? GLOWIN' BRIGHTER?
INSPECTOR TURPIN! JUST WHAT KIND OF WEAPON WAS THAT?
TECH BOYS CALL IT AN OVER-LOADER.
THEY DEVELOPED IT AFTER OUR LAST BOUT WITH CAULDRON.
IT'S DESIGNED TO FEED 'IM SO MUCH ENERGY HIS CIRCUITS'LL POP LIKE SOAP BUBBLES!
BUT THIS CAULDRON CAN'T BE OVER-LOADED!
EXCESS ENERGY JUST MAKES IT--
STRONGER!

STRONGER THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD!
YOU'VE GIVEN ME JUST WHAT I NEEDED! WITH ITS NEW MODIFICATIONS--
--THIS MACHINE COULD SURVIVE AT THE HEART OF A STAR!
AND YOU MAY HAVE JUST GIVEN ME WHAT I NEED-- AN IDEA!
--THE CORE OF A PLANET?
SHHPSSHH!
IF CAULDRON CAN SURVIVE THE HEART OF A STAR, WHY NOT--

CAULDRON'S FLAMES ARE MELTING THE STONE AND DIRT UNDER US--
--CUTTING A PATH STRAIGHT TO--
--THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!
SUSPENDED IN MOLTEN MAGMA, HE CAN'T GET TRACTION.
CAULDRON'S TRAPPED, DEFEATED BY THE VERY HEAT HE SOUGHT TO USE FOR CONQUEST.
I BELIEVE THE POETS WOULD CALL THAT--

THE POWER OF SHAZAM!
Family Reunion
BILLY BATSON'S DREAM COME TRUE. . . .
. . . BECOMES A NIGHTMARE!
A THREE-PART STORY BEGINNING IN ISSUE #25.
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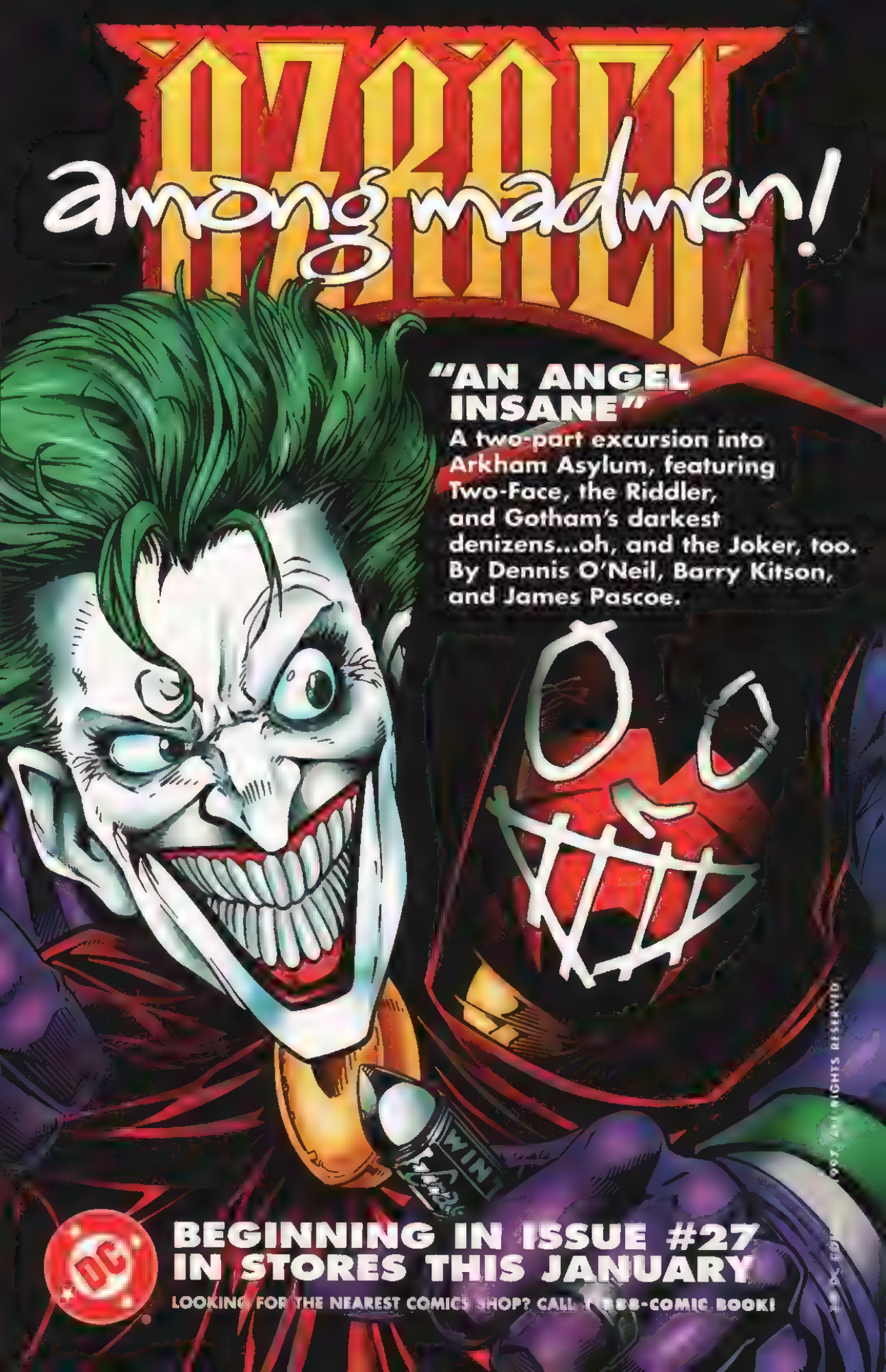
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BEGINNING IN ISSUE #27
IN STORES THIS JANUARY
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DC

--"IRONY."
KRUNCH
SKRUNCH
MORE RUMBLIN'! HEADED THIS WAY!
BUT IS IT CAULDRON, OR--
--BIG BLUE!
THEN YA DID IT!
I KEPT MY PROMISE. THE CONSTANT BOMBARDMENT OF BETA PARTICLES WILL KEEP THE CLONE INSIDE THE ROBOT ALIVE, UNTIL WE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO SAFELY REMOVE HIM.
BUT AT LEAST FOR NOW
...IT'S OVER.

AND SOON, AFTER SUPERMAN HAS HELPED FIREFIGHTERS BRING MAJOR BLAZES UNDER CONTROL...
IT'S JUST HORRID.
THE DEVASTATION, THE LOSS, THE RUINED LIVES
AND ALL FOR WHAT?
EGO.
FOR THE CRAZED, OBSESSIVE AMBITION OF ONE MAN.
IT'S THAT KIND OF MAN THAT MAKES SUPERMAN NECESSARY, LOIS.
AND THAT MAN IS STILL ROAMING FREE.
I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF NIKOLAI KARPOV OR...
"...CAULDRON."
END

RE:ACTION

ACTION COMICS #727

Dear Super-Team:

WOWSERS!!! That's the *only* way I can describe Tom Grummett's pencils in ACTION COMICS #727. I've been a big fan of Tom's work in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, SUPERBOY and ROBIN, but his work on the quarterly MAN OF TOMORROW just wasn't enough for me. Now he's back where he belongs—on a *monthly* Superman title. Super-cool!

The story was good, too. I especially liked the whole "symbols" theme, with the memorial statue of Supes serving as a symbol not only to that guy in the suit who was only looking out for himself to be a "hero," but also giving Superman himself the determination to fight on. Metropolitans must be big on symbolism. The *Daily Planet* building served as a symbol of hope during the "Fall of Metropolis" storyline. Anyway, this whole FINAL NIGHT story is really interesting.

Before I go, I have a question that's been bugging me ever since I picked up the Super-titles a while back. I know this has been asked before, but just what the hootenanny is a Baldy, anyway? Is it a trophy of excellence, a medal of honor, a diploma of graduation, a certificate of attendance, a plaque for outstanding achievement? All of the above? None of the above? Please tell me!

EVAN CATRON
P.O. BOX 319
CASHION, OK 73016

Well, Evan, the Baldy is our way of saying thanks for the most interesting letter in this month's column. In fact, your use of the word "hootenanny" earned you some serious points on this month's Baldy-meter, so it's with great pride that we name you the winner of this prestigious award! Congratulations!

Dear Re:Action:

What an interesting issue ACTION COMICS #727 was! It's quite obvious I should be happy about the fact that none other than Tom Grummett has debuted as the series' new regular artist, but other than that, I especially found David Michelinie's story to be one of the finest and most well written pieces of work I've read from him during the past several months.

For starters, I like the way Superman is being affected by the recent developments involving the sun. It's very logical that Superman should suffer from loss of power once he doesn't get his regular dose of sunlight, but strangely enough, it was something I hadn't thought about until this very week. Sometimes the obvious is also the most ingenious, I presume. Seeing our Man of Steel leaping through the city instead of flying, seeing him think hard and long about how to approach enemies he would normally have beaten with one hand—those are aspects about this issue that have made it quite a treat to read, and they certainly have given me a lot of entertainment.

Furthermore, and most important, I really appreciate the lovely parallel (or underlying theme, if you will) of this issue's story. Both Clark Kent and the businessman trying to buy his way through the Earth's current crises found strength and courage to carry on in the statue the city of Metropolis had erected in Superman's honor. Both men found enough strength to even overcome the hardships of that day, Superman beating the Simm-Robots and the businessman scaring away the looters from that drainage tunnel. It really is a nice and lovely touch which has added a certain atmosphere, a certain feeling of being involved with what's happening during the Earth's "final night."

In the artwork department, it was absolutely great to see Tom Grummett in these pages, as I pointed out above. I have always liked his work on SUPERBOY, and it's reassuring to know that we will be seeing his work on a regular monthly schedule even now that he's given up that job.

To make a long story short, if upcoming issues are as interesting, offbeat and visually stunning as ACTION COMICS #727, you bet I'll stick around!

OLAV BEEMER
ZEIST, THE NETHERLANDS

We here at Super-Team Headquarters make a daily solemn promise to do our best in giving you exactly what ya want, Olav. Thanks for stickin' around!

Dear Actioneers:

Hey! Who flicked the white-out on all of the panels this issue? Just kidding.

Page one: Ah, the Superman who can only bound, but not fly. Reminds me of the 1930s, except I don't remember the thirties because my Dad wasn't even born yet.

Page 6: At first I thought that this was the businessman from the "Fall of Metropolis," who tried to buy his way into the shelter. And

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I kept thinking that until page 21 because of the way he kept thinking so selfishly. I even thought he was going to just give up and commit suicide on page 18, until I saw how you guys converged the two storylines.

Superman on one side of the statue, the "suit" on the other. One thinking selflessly, but scared for his city. The other thinking selfishly, scared of his city. One reacts to the men who made the rock, the other to the man in the rock. Neither ever reacted to the other directly; it was as if the statue was a medium for their thoughts. Nice.

The overwrought, stereotypical, cigar-smoking militiamen were a hoot, especially when Superman told them to try to survive in jail. Outside of the comics world and into our own, I'd like to see a good militia portrayed somewhere like the news—but the news doesn't seem to want that. I dunno—guess those on the right side of the law aren't famous for 15 minutes. Hmmm...

TV RADIATION
PLYMOUTH, CA

Now, don't get any crazy ideas, pal! Otherwise we're gonna rescind that Baldy we sent ya a while back! Don't make us get ugly!

Dear Re:Action:

I can't get ACTION COMICS out of my head, and I hold David Michelinie directly responsible. This is perhaps the biggest compliment I can pay David on his newest script, except to add that I know I got my money's worth this time out.

"Cold Comfort" was told in such an efficient manner that I feel as if I just finished a double-sized issue. David's two-pronged tale and the parallels he drew between Superman and that waylaid businessman evolved at a rapid, yet still quite natural pace. The longer Clark/Superman scenes had conveyed the idea that time was passing quickly for the businessman, heightening the sense of panic he must have been feeling. He should just be thankful this never happened in Gotham; the street thugs in that town don't scare so easily (unless you've got pointy ears and a utility belt).

I'm also impressed with how the human interest angle has been played out during the current crisis, both here and in this week's installment of THE FINAL NIGHT (kudos to Karl Kesel on his use of the Phantom Stranger). More often than not, these epic crossovers force the more human aspects of such books as SUPERMAN and BATMAN to take a backseat to flashy super-heroics. There have been exceptions, of course, such as LEGENDS, but it seems almost a rule that the more cosmic the storyline, the less room there is for the common man. I cite MILLENNIUM as an example here, even though the premise directly involved the evolution of our entire species. It is finally satisfying, therefore, to see the common man find his niche in this, one of the more cosmic crossovers yet.

CHRIS HINES
TRURO, NS

Isn't that usually the case, Chris—the more common the figure, the more uncommon the story's quality usually is. And we felt that ACTION #727 was no exception to that rule.

Dear Guys (re ACTION COMICS #727):

I'm very glad you brought back Tom Grummett, one of my favorite artists. I look forward to seeing his work, and the fact that Superman's powers are fading is a great story. He still battled the Simm-Robots well, and I can't wait to see the outcome. See you next time.

VITO BUSCEMI
PHILLIPSBURG, NJ

P.S. I heard on the news that you're finally marrying Lois and Clark (I'll thank you in my next letter). Here's what I think will happen: Lois realizes she was wrong, comes back to Metropolis, gives Clark the ring and apologizes, and they get married in secret.

Close, Vito—Lois realized what her problem was in SUPERMAN #118, came back to Metropolis and accepted Clark's re-proposal, and then had the biggest wedding of the year, in front of their family and friends (not to mention all you countless readers who checked out THE WEDDING SPECIAL)! If that weren't enough, Jimmy Olsen got blasted and sang real bad at the reception in ADVENTURES #541, and we travelled to Hawaii with Lois and Clark, where they encountered Superboy, Kekona the Demolisher and Rajiv! Other than that, it was a fairly normal wedding!

—Mike McAvennie
Got a haircut the same time as Superman (a week earlier, actually).

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

IN ONE WEEK: In MAN OF TOMORROW #8, Roger Stern, Paul Ryan and Brett Breeding get ready to ROCK, and in seven days, it's Lex Luthor's head that may roll!

IN TWO WEEKS: Find out just what the Big Red "S" means to the citizens of Metropolis as Superman tries to ward off a terrorist threat! Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke present MAN OF STEEL #66 in fourteen days!

IN THREE WEEKS: From the bottle city of Kandor comes a figure who will play a big role in the Man of Steel's life. All this, and is Superman feeling OK? Guess Dan Jurgens, Ron Frenz and Joe Rubinstein'll let us know in SUPERMAN #122 in twenty-one days!

IN FOUR WEEKS: This is the big one! Everything you know about Superman changes now! (That is, except maybe the Big Blue nickname...) Karl Kesel, guest penciller Scot Eaton and Jose Marzan, Jr. present the *new* ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #545 in just twenty-eight days!

IN FIVE WEEKS: The Atomic Skull takes on a very different Superman in ACTION COMICS #732. Unfortunately, Supes doesn't quite know what to make of his own new self! Hopefully, David Michelinie, Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier can give him a clue in thirty-five days!

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Things reach a boiling point in this month's battle between Superman and Cauldron, courtesy of Tom Grummett, Denis Rodier and Patrick Martin! SSssssszzzz!

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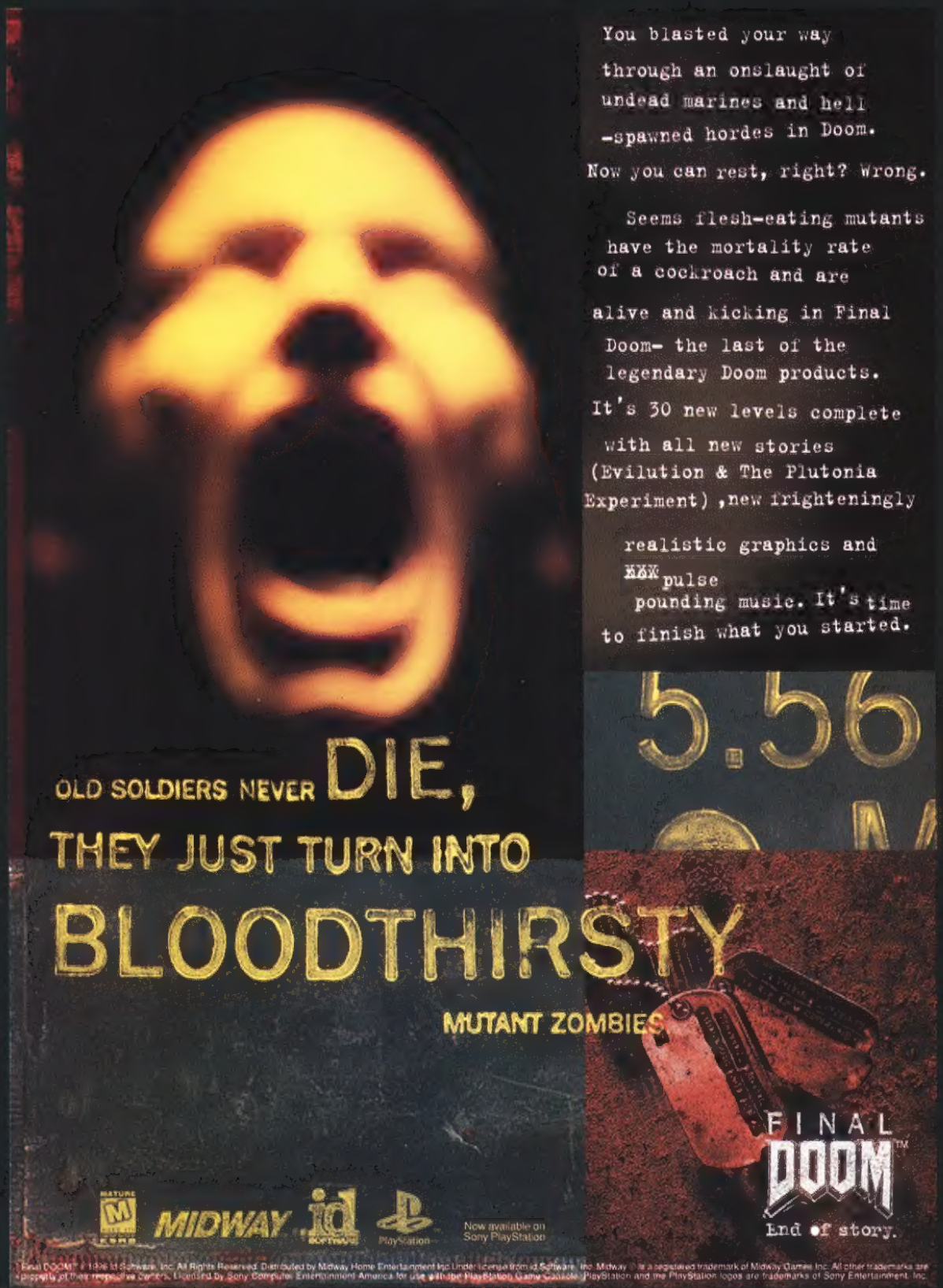
You blasted your way through an onslaught of undead marines and hell-spawned hordes in Doom.
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